



CAPITOL UPDATE

OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Penny Bernard Schaber
Serving the heart of Appleton



Friends,

It has been a busy month in the Wisconsin State Assembly. We have passed an important bipartisan piece of legislation, AB 3, which will protect the state's waterways from the dangerous and costly environmental damage caused by phosphorus runoff. I am proud to say I worked hard on a policy that it is the strongest campaign finance regulation in the country. I have consistently been a supporter of campaign finance reform, so I was pleased that the Assembly Committee on Organization passed a fundraising ban at the urging of me and many of my colleagues. This ban prevents Assembly members from fundraising during the entire budget process.

I am excited to announce that I have introduced two pieces of legislation recently. The Electronics-Waste Bill will help tackle the growing problem of electronic waste, reducing the build-up of computer monitors and televisions in our landfills. This bill will benefit the consumer, the environment, and the economy. The E-Waste bill is not just an important step in environmental legislation it is vital to our public health. Dangerous chemicals leak from the computers and televisions into our landfills and groundwater.

I also authored a very important piece of consumer protection legislation, the Check Scam Protection Act. People receive what appears to be a check and they cash the check. Upon cashing the check the endorser is actually accepting a loan which gives the scammer access and power directly to the bank account. Most people are unaware of this scam and this legislation is aiming to protect the targeted groups seniors and businesses.

I have also been busy responding to all of your comments and questions. I love hearing from constituents and encourage you to keep contacting me with any concerns that you have. If you know someone that would like to be added to our email list to receive monthly editions of *Capitol Update* please contact Rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov or call 608-266-3070.

Penny Bernard Schaber
State Representative 57th District

Federal Stimulus for the Fox Valley

I have included some major stimulus and budget points that will have a direct impact on the Appleton area. The State Stimulus Package will provide an important investment in the Appleton area to help boost the local economy and to create and retain jobs.

The package includes:

- \$32 million for transportation projects in the Fox Valley
- \$6 million in additional health care payments for area residents

- \$1 million for meat processing facility tax credits that seven Fox Valley businesses would be eligible to receive.

As the national economic crisis hits Wisconsin, I want you to know that I am working hard to help us get through the crisis. Together, we can move Wisconsin forward.

High School Art Competition Results

North Appleton High School:

Best of School: Biz Cool, Cityscape a Pastel

Merit: Le Beau, Study of Lilies

East Appleton High School:

Best of School: Ching Thao, Oil Painting

Merit: Jennifer Kohl, Ceramic Sewing Machine

Events

Do you have an event you would like Penny to attend in Appleton? If so please contact the office at 608-266-3070 or email rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov.

Governor Doyle's Budget

After some hard work, I convinced the Joint Finance Committee to have a public hearing in Appleton. It took place on April 1 and was an extremely successful day. Over 200 people showed up to speak at the event. What I thought was most impressive was everyone's patience and respect for their fellow citizens. It was a great day to be your representative. I am happy that the Joint Finance Committee was able to hear what I have been hearing from Appleton's families and businesses. The Joint Finance Committee will vote on sections of the budget for the next couple of weeks. During this process they will decide to keep in or take out various provisions. As a part of this process I will be making some budget amendments and motions based on your input. I will keep you informed of this as we go through it.

It is important to remember two things. The budget that I will be voting on does not exist and won't until Joint Finance Committee finishes their work. I can only vote up or down on the budget. I cannot vote on certain provisions. So while you and I may be against one portion of the budget I have to vote on the budget as a whole.

Penny's Pointer: Home Foreclosure Information

This year alone more than 57- hundred Wisconsin families have seen their homes go into foreclosure. In an effort to help fight the devastation of foreclosures we have created the Speaker's Taskforce on Preventing Home Foreclosures. The goal of the taskforce is to identify innovative solutions, highlight best practices, and make legislative recommendations to the Assembly.

If you are worried about home foreclosure, please call the home ownership preservation foundation a non-profit organization that works on keeping people in their homes at 888-995-HOPE.